

Rapuno to be Assistant Secretary of Defense. Had I been able to attend, I would have supported his nomination.●

WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I wanted to express my support for the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver Act, also known as the WILD Act. I commend my Senate colleagues for passing this legislation last week.

I firmly believe that we have a moral duty to be good stewards of our planet, and that includes working together to conserve species and their habitat in the United States and around the world. We face many pressing wildlife management challenges; yet we have heard in the Environment and Public Works Committee that State and Federal agencies do not have adequate resources to face these troubling challenges. That is what makes innovation and collaboration so important, and the WILD Act inspires both.

The WILD Act incentivizes innovators by establishing cash-prize competitions for new technologies that prevent poaching, promote conservation, manage invasive species, protect endangered species, and use nonlethal methods to control wildlife. It directs Federal agencies to manage invasive species on public lands and reauthorizes effective government conservation programs, including those that protect some of our most loved species—elephants, great apes, tigers, rhinos, and marine turtles.

The WILD Act also reauthorizes the Department of Interior's Partnership for Fish and Wildlife Program, which leverages Federal funding by working with hard-working private landowners to restore and improve fish and wildlife habitats on their land.

Wildlife conservation is not a partisan issue, which is why I was so pleased to join with Chairman BARASSO and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle in support of this legislation.

The WILD Act has also been endorsed by a diverse group of stakeholders, including the World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited, and the Family Farm Alliance. I want to thank these organizations for their commitment to this issue and their interest in helping our challenged fisheries and threatened ecosystems, as well as internationally treasured rhinos and elephants.

I urge the House to pass the WILD Act and the President to sign it into law.

Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING WILLIAM G. SESLER

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of William G.

Sesler, Esq., 89, who passed away peacefully on May 22, 2017. Bill's exceptional service to our country in the U.S. Air Force, his dedication as a public servant in Pennsylvania, and his unwavering commitment to underserved communities throughout his career are worthy of recognition. His contributions to the Commonwealth will never be forgotten.

I ask that the obituary from Gregory P. Sesler from May 26 be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

Thank you to the hospital care takers, physicians, pastors, friends, relatives, church community and family.

I was on my way home from the hospital last week after having just left my father and after the decision had been made by the family to put him on palliative care. It was hard, my mother was awesome. A wave of sadness swept over me as I began to think of all of the things I would soon not be able to with him again in this world. But then I thought of all the things we had been able to do together and what a blessed life he had lived.

Maybe we wouldn't climb Mount Washington together again, but we did it once. No longer would we sail the Chesapeake, go ice-boating, travel on the German autobahn, see the Reformation Wall in Geneva, go to Africa to Ngorongoro crater, or go transatlantic on the QE II, but we had had a chance to do them all before. We had travelled thousands of miles and done dozens of business deals together, eaten lunch together at the Maernerchor Club hundreds of times. No he wouldn't drive my Jaguar way too fast again, or sail our Catalina sailboat or visit Civil War Battle Fields or see the wild horses of the Outerbanks, or see the Northern Lights in Alberta or the great cathedrals of Europe, or return to Kenyon College for another reunion or read his letters to the Editor. But we had been able to do all of those things together.

We got the chance to shoot pheasants in South Dakota, geese in North Dakota, go to Mexico with his grandchildren, see the cliffs of Western Ireland, listen to Pavarotti at the Warner, smoke cigars on the back porch, banter about an article in the New York Times, argue about business decisions, drink too much wine on a fishing trip in Canada, and enjoy over 50 Christmas parties together.

Although I will never again have to endure his criticism or crave his praise or chase a bear out of our campsite within the Smokey Mountains, I have been able to do all of those things with him.

Although he won't be bursting into my office on December 23rd and having me accompany him to buy an apartment's worth of furniture for a refugee family, or feeling the pride of seeing my aged parents volunteer in the homeless shelter, I did get to do that with him once.

There may be no more deer hunting or trout fishing trips to Potter County or camping on the Outer Banks, or horseback riding in the Allegheny Forests, or watching World War II documentaries or going to James Bond movies on my birthday, but not everybody gets the chance to create this wealth of memories and for that chance I have been very blessed.

But while Dad loved to travel and do and experience life in a very full way, and to share those experiences with his children and grandchildren generously, it was his transfer of character, drive, and confidence to us that was his greatest gift. He also instilled in us an innate curiosity of the world. We both

thank him and curse him for our restless discursive minds. My mother once said that one of the reasons she married my dad 59 years ago was because she knew her life would never be boring. She was right.

My dad was a non-politically correct liberal. He cared for people and believed in government as an agent of good, but he wasn't shy about criticizing the slothful or undisciplined. He wasn't afraid to refer to sloppy or vague thinking as BS. He admired the great planners who got things done. General George Marshal was one of those. He was not an admirer of Donald Trump. After William had been in the ICU for four days and we were able to wean him from the ventilator, he asked for his New York Times. His first comment when opening the paper was "He fired Comey? What the hell!"

I had a special relationship with my dad. After returning to Erie from law school in 1984 we worked together for 33 years. Logged thousands of miles together, built 15 office buildings together, had many triumphs and losses, made money and lost money. We had fights, we had love, and I wouldn't trade any of it. Thanks Dad. Thanks for helping with my kid's college tuition, thanks for helping me buy a house, thanks for teaching me about the law and making me a better lawyer. Thank you for making me a more careful thinker, thank you for being my business partner, for being the family patriarch and also a great dad.

He was a man who was confident, direct, capable, and precise, who valued careful thinking, reasoning and planning, he could be a tough dad and a demanding boss, and even though he was often a critic you didn't want to hear, you often knew in the back of your mind that the criticism was justified.

You were also a patriarch who greatly loved and cared for your family and were so generous to all of us, monetarily, intellectually, spiritually, and emotionally—you gave us so much. You made our lives and the lives of many people who we will never know so much better with this love, your public service and the resolve to get things done.

And so, we thank the Lord this day for the life of this man, my dad, and ask God to hold him in the palm of his hand, to keep him safe, to care for him, to love him and to welcome him into eternal life.●

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER STUDENTS

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, in my home State of Indiana, we take great pride when our children display exemplary academic work and interest in our Nation's history. We are very proud of four Hoosier middle school students from Warsaw, IN, who are using their research skills to tell the story of a heroic veteran for their National History Day project entitled "Taking a Stand at Pearl Harbor."

I am pleased to recognize these four fine young men, Keller Bailey and Jason Benyousky of Washington STEM Academy, Geoffrey Hochstetler, who is educated at home, and Ryn Hoffert of Eisenhower Elementary; who worked together to research, write, and perform a series of skits around the theme, "Making a Stand in History." These boys chose to design their project around the events of December 7, 1941, the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. As part of their detailed research, the students read a book by a veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor Donald Stratton. This book inspired